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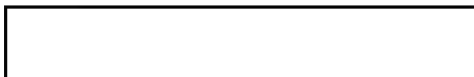
DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

## MEMORANDUM

### *The Situation in Vietnam*

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Information as of 1600  
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HIGHLIGHTS

A US Marine company operating near the Demilitarized Zone killed 150 of an estimated 200-man Communist force on 7 July. Elsewhere in the DMZ area, military activity has diminished somewhat although Marine outposts continue to come under heavy enemy fire and [REDACTED]

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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:  
A US Marine company engaged a 200-man enemy force just below the Demilitarized Zone on 7 July and killed 150 of them (Para. 1). Communist artillery and mortar attacks in this area continue and a Marine jet aircraft may have been downed by a SAM launched from just north of the DMZ (Paras. 2-4).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Five leading generals have filed an official complaint against the candidacy of General Duong Van Minh on grounds his return would be detrimental to national security (Paras. 2-5) [REDACTED]

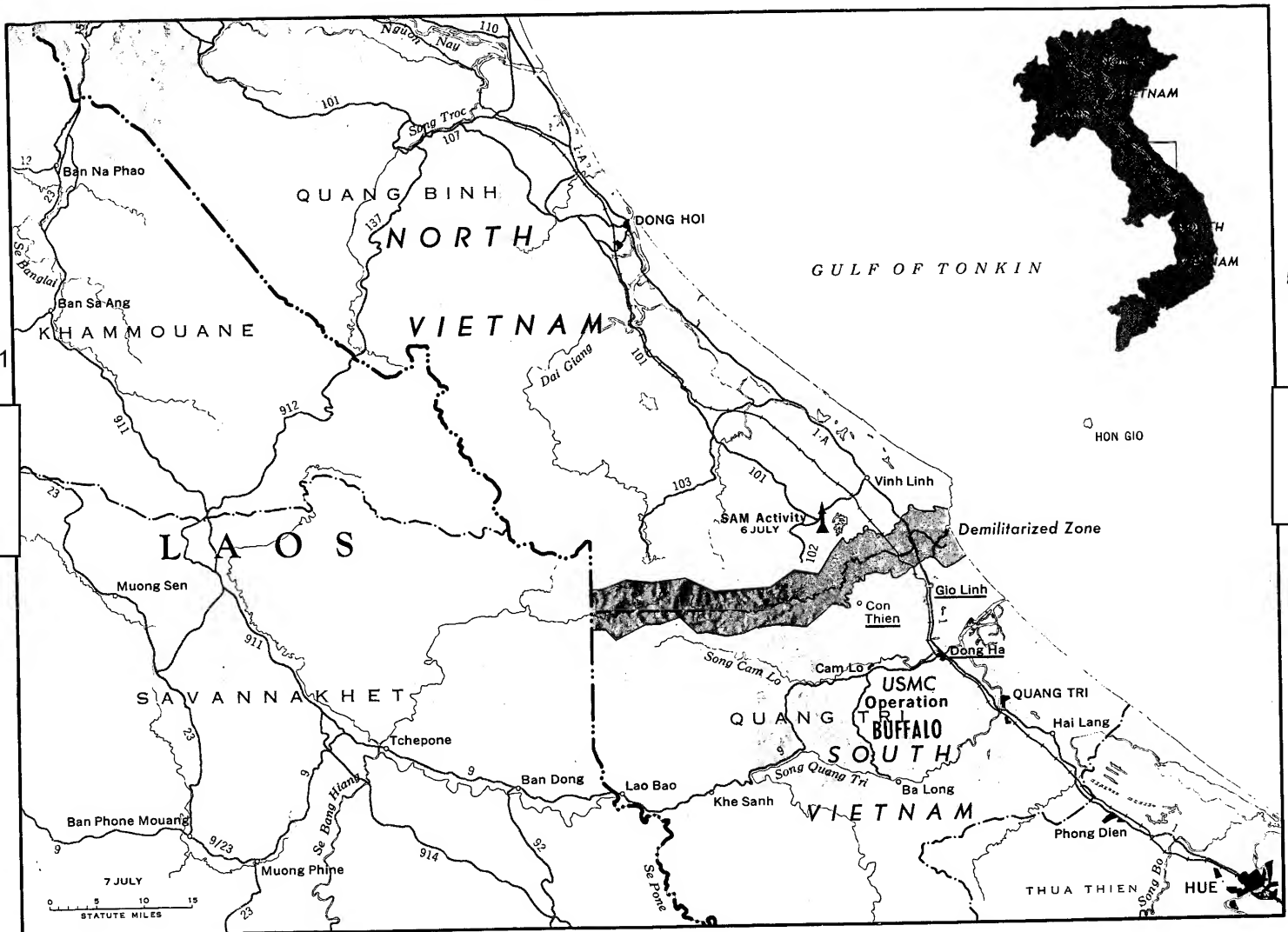
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III. Military Developments in North Vietnam:  
There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments:  
There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.



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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. A US Marine company engaged an estimated 200-man enemy force moving on a trail just below the Demilitarized Zone near Con Thien early on 7 July and killed 150 of them. The Marines reported no casualties. Thirteen Marines were killed and 36 wounded in other action in this area, which in recent weeks has been the focal point of a determined enemy offensive.

2. The Communists have continued their mortar, artillery and rocket attacks throughout the week from positions within and north of the DMZ. A total of 1,024 rounds fell on the Marine strongpoints at Con Thien, Gio Linh and Dong Ha on 6 July. In addition, a US Marine jet aircraft is believed to have been downed by a North Vietnamese SAM launched from just north of the DMZ. If confirmed, this would be the second US aircraft shot down in this manner in the DMZ area. Another plane was lost to a SAM on 10 May. The presence of SAMs in this area also threatens B-52s operating in the immediate vicinity of the zone.

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4. The name of the seven-battalion Marine operation just below the DMZ was changed from CIMARRON to BUFFALO on 1 July. CIMARRON began on 31 May and cumulative casualty figures for that operation are 245 enemy killed compared with 38 Marines killed and 470 wounded. Casualties for Operation BUFFALO -- which include those resulting from the heavy contact near Con Thien on 2 July -- are 418 enemy killed compared with 156 Marines killed, 491 wounded and 5 missing.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

"Big" Minh

3. Joint General Staff Chief Cao Van Vien and the four corps commanders filed an official complaint on behalf of the military against the candidacy of General Duong Van Minh and his running-mate, Tran

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Ngoc Lieng, with the Provisional National Assembly on 6 July. The generals claimed, as they had previously announced publicly, that Minh's return to Vietnam would be detrimental to national security.

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5. Complaints have also been filed against seven other tickets, including the Thieu-Ky and the Au Truong Thanh - Vu Van Huyen slates. The complaint against Thieu and Ky is that they should be disqualified because they did not resign their official positions before filing. Thanh and Huyen are charged with having Communist backgrounds and sympathies. The Provisional National Assembly is to forward all complaints to the central election council on 7 July, after which they will be examined and returned to the assembly on 15 July. Candidates against whom complaints have been filed may then be invited to present their cases before the assembly's special committee set up to review dossiers of presidential candidates. The slates approved will then be posted by the assembly for the second and final time on 19 July; no candidate is permitted to withdraw after that date.

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